

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of processing active wireless device
2 statistics, the method comprising:
3 receiving statistics ~~on~~ indicating the number of active wireless devices in at
4 least one communications cell;
5 estimating the number of people in a geographic region of interest from the
6 ~~received statistics on the number of active wireless devices indicated by the received~~
7 statistics.
- 1 Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein receiving statistics includes:
2 receiving information from a plurality of different communications cells, said
3 information including at a first count corresponding to the number of active devices
4 in a first communications cell and a second count corresponding to the number of
5 active devices in a second communications cell.
- 1 Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein estimating the number of people
2 in a geographic region of interest includes:
3 correlating the first and second counts corresponding to the first and
4 second communications cells, respectively, to the geographic area of interest to
5 generate a set of target area statistics including an estimate of the number of active
6 wireless devices in the geographic area of interest.
- 1 Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein estimating the number of people
2 in a geographic region of interest includes:
3 performing an extrapolation operation on the estimate of the number of active
4 wireless devices in the geographic area of interest to produce the estimate of the
5 number of people in the geographic area of interest.
- 1 Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2 generating a report including the estimate of the number of people in
3 the geographic area of interest; and
4 outputting said report.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 predicting the distribution of the estimated number of people in a
3 geographic region of interest from the received statistics on the number of active
4 wireless devices.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein active device counts from
2 different wireless communications cells each at least partially overlapping said
3 geographic area of interest are used in predicting the distribution of the estimated
4 number of people.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 generating a report including the estimate of the number of people in
3 the geographic area of interest and information on the predicted distribution of the
4 estimated number of people.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the first count is a count of a first
2 type of wireless device and said second count is a count of a second type of wireless
3 device which is different from said first type.

1 Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the first type of wireless device
2 is a cell phone and the second type of wireless device is a personal data assistant.

1 Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 9, further comprising:~~
2 A method of processing active wireless device statistics, the method
3 comprising:

4 receiving statistics on the number and type of active wireless devices in at
5 least one communications cell;

6 estimating the number of people in a geographic region of interest from the
7 received statistics on the number of active wireless devices; and

8 predicting characteristics of the people in the geographic region of interest
9 from the type and number of active wireless devices in the geographic region of
10 interest.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:
2 generating a report including the estimate of the number of people in
3 the geographic area of interest and information on the predicted characteristics of the
4 people.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said step of receiving statistics
2 on the number of active wireless devices includes:
3 receiving active wireless device statistics corresponding to different
4 points in time; and
5 generating, from received active wireless device statistics
6 corresponding to at least two different points in time, information on the flow of
7 traffic in the geographic region of interest.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of generating a traffic flow report
2 indicating the flow of people in a geographic area, the method comprising the steps
3 of:
4 collecting active wireless device statistics from a communications cell
5 over a period of time; and
6 detecting changes in the collected active wireless device statistics; and

7 generating a report including traffic information on the flow of people through said
8 geographic area information based on detected changes in the collected active
9 wireless device statistics.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein the detected
2 changes include at least one of an increase and a decrease in the number of active
3 wireless devices in a communications cell.

1 Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the detected changes include
2 changes in the identity of the active wireless devices being serviced by the cell.

1 *Q1* Claim 17 (original): An apparatus for estimating the number of people in a
2 geographic region, the apparatus comprising:
3 an interface for receiving an active wireless device count from at least
4 one communications cell;
5 means for estimating based on the received active wireless device
6 count the number of people in a geographic region including at least a portion of said
7 communication cell.

1 Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 17,
2 wherein said interface receives wireless device count information
3 including a first count corresponding to a first communications cell and a second
4 count from a second communication cell; and
5 wherein means for estimating includes:
6 means for correlating the first and second counts corresponding to the first and
7 second communications cells, respectively, to a geographic area of interest to
8 generate a set of target area statistics including an estimate of the number of active
9 wireless devices in the geographic area of interest.

1 Claim 19 (original): The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for estimating
2 further includes:
3 means for performing an extrapolation operation on the estimate of the number of
4 active wireless devices in the geographic area of interest to produce the estimate of
5 the number of people in the geographic area of interest.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): A wireless communications system, the system
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of wireless communications centers, each wireless
4 communications center collecting statistics on the number of active wireless devices
5 being serviced at a point in time;

6 a processing center coupled to the plurality of wireless
7 communications centers, the processing center receiving from said wireless
8 communication centers the statistics on the number of active wireless devices being
9 serviced, the processing center including:

10 means for estimating the number of people in a geographic region of
11 interest from the ~~received statistics on the~~ number of active wireless devices being
12 serviced by said wireless communications centers.